



Einladung  
zum Vortrag von

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**Class cultures or micro-class cultures?  
An analysis of literary tastes of occupational groups in Russia**

**Zeit:** Dienstag, 26.3.2019 um 18.00 Uhr (s.t.)

**Ort:** SR 15.39

RESOWI-Zentrum | Gebäudeteil G | 4. OG

**Zum Vortrag:**

Looking for differences in tastes of macrosocial classes has been sociology of culture's preoccupation for decades. The recent turn to the study of "micro-classes" in the sociology of stratification, however, questions the reality of such entities, suggesting rather that individual occupations are the building blocks of social structures and, by implication, a natural site of differences in lifestyles. There have so far been few attempts in the sociology of culture to disaggregate classes into specific occupations, as this requires extensive datasets unavailable from surveys. In this paper, we begin to fill this gap using a dataset from the public library system of a major Russian city covering literary choices of above 250.000 readers. We show that indeed there are striking contrasts between occupational groups, with only a minor part of those contrasts captured by existing class and socioeconomic status scales. We discuss several interpretations of these findings: (a) inapplicability of socioeconomic status schemata to Russia; (b) the existence of strong micro-class cultures; (c) the presence of "economic" and "cultural" dimensions of status, implicating two different ordering of occupations; and (d) difference between occupational and class mobility, and the role of cultural consumption as an instrument of managing occupational stigma.

**Zum Vortragenden:**

MIKHAIL SOKOLOV is professor of sociology and the Director of Centre for institutional analysis of science and education at the European University at Saint Petersburg, Russia. His principal research interests are in the fields of Goffmanian microsociological theory, social stratification, artistic consumption, sociology and history of the social sciences. He has recently co-authored a book on comparative study of academic labour markets in British, German, French, Russian and US sociologies (*Becoming a Professor. Academic Careers, Markets, and Power in Five National Sociologies* published in autumn 2015 by New Literary Review Press, Moscow).